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February in the Highlands
Read about some of this month's events on page 3.

A refresh for theatre
Learn about a new local theatre company run by familiar faces on page 5.

Why do moose shed their antlers?
Find out in this week's editorial on page 6.

With plenty of fresh snow, the Haliburton County Snowmobile Association B103 trail is highlighted green on the OFSC interactive trail map, meaning riders are good to go. HCSA volunteers continue to work hard grooming and clearing trails and staking lakes. /VIVIAN COLLINGS Staff

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Tradition continues for Haliburton Highlanders

VIVIAN COLLINGS
County Life Staff

Rob Halupka recites Address to a Haggis before the rest of the food was served during the Robbie Burns festivities on Saturday, Jan. 21 at Royal Canadian Legion Branch 129. /VIVIAN COLLINGS Staff

Pipes and drums have been heard echoing in the Haliburton Highlands for over 50 years, with local band members displaying the gold, red, blue, and green tartan. You can become part of that long-standing tradition.

The Haliburton Highlanders are accepting new members into their family of pipers and drummers, and no experience is necessary.

"Being a part of the band is the best part," said Haliburton Highlanders Pipes and Drums band manager Emily Stonehouse when asked what she enjoys most about playing the bagpipes. "Everyone supports everyone. We laugh, we joke, we play. We're always learning, and even though I've been playing a few years, there's still so much more to learn, and the band has supported every step."

Brian Sachs has been a member of the Haliburton Highlanders Pipes and Drums for 36 years.

The musician joined the band when he moved to Haliburton in 1986, and he said it continues to bring the same fulfillment to his life as when he started.

"The social part of it is huge. We've all become good friends because we get to see each other each week. We talk as much as we practice," Sachs laughed.

In addition to creating connections with each other, getting to play in the community allows for band members to see people at their high and low points.

"It's brought an immense opportunity for connections in the community," said Stonehouse. "When you tell people you play the bagpipes, it always sparks a conversation."

She said playing for former pipe major Earl Cooper's funeral was one of her first performances and an experience she will always remember.

"The community gathered to share sadness and mourn," Stonehouse said. "I've also piped at weddings, including my own. The bagpipes are for celebration; beginnings, endings, and everything in between."

Bagpipes can evoke strong emotions in all that hear and play them. Stonehouse said having the opportunity to allow people to feel highs and lows through music is fulfilling.

Sachs remembered his first experience hearing bagpipes as a child very well.

"I was sitting on the curb in Listowel during a parade. I just remember seeing these pipers come down the road, and I didn't think they were people. It was the first time I had ever seen them. I was so taken aback by them. I think that's where I was hooked," said the long-time member.

Sachs said he sees the same awe on the faces of children as the Haliburton Highlanders march in parades.

"It's funny because I see eyes light up as we come down the street, particularly in the really young kids."

Sachs said all you need to have to play in the band is enthusiasm to play and a bit of physical strength.

"If you have the desire to learn to play the pipes or the drums, we'll help you become a piper or drummer, but you need to have strong enthusiasm. It may take a few years before you are ready to play in public," he said.

Stonehouse added that bagpipes are a difficult instrument to learn, but the experience of learning to play is just as enjoyable as being able to play full songs.

"It's a challenging instrument, but one that you can see the improvements with when you actually practice. Probably a good metaphor for anything in life," Stonehouse said.

Band history

The band and a few lucky community members recently had the opportunity to experience a Robbie Burns supper at the Haliburton Legion on Saturday, Jan. 21 after missing a few years due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Robert Burns was a Scottish poet born on Jan. 25, 1759. Traditionally, Robbie Burns dinners are hosted on his birthday and feature Scottish food, music, and dancing.

Eleanor Cooper said she has been attending Robbie Burns suppers in Haliburton since they began when her husband, Earl Cooper, was the pipe major.

The band was formed in the summer of 1969 by Don Johnston, Earl Cooper, and Don Wright. The original band consisted of 10 students around Grade 8 or Grade 9 and five adults.

Their first performance was on Nov. 30, 1970 for Saint Andrew's Day.

They played in their first parade on Apr. 30, 1972 and led the Ladies Auxiliary from the Haliburton Legion to the Haliburton cenotaph.

"The band knew two tunes at the time and played one after the other, back to back," Sachs said.

Both Don Johnston and Earl Cooper have since passed, but their legacy is woven into the wool of the tartan worn by today's Haliburton Highlanders.

Approximately 100 people have been members of the band over the past 52 years.

Originally, the band was called the Haliburton Legion Pipes and Drums. At that time, almost each Legion had a band, but now they are "few and far between," Sachs said.

They took on their current name around 1995 and began managing themselves.

The present band has 14 members: eight pipers, five drummers, and one administrator. They attend five to seven parades each year and practice once a week in the main hall of Royal Canadian Legion Branch 129 from 7 to 9 p.m.

In the summer, they practice at the town docks in Haliburton.

"Senior members of the band will teach and instruct, provide all equipment and instruments needed, and we encourage and cheer on our recruits,"Sachs said.

There is no cost to band members, and all ages are welcome to join.

"All we ask is that you give it an honest effort. Our senior piper in the band, Jim Thomson, started learning the pipes at age seven it Scotland. We are certainly not opposed to having somebody that young, and we also are not opposed to having somebody 70 years of age, as long as they are realistic about what they are able to do," he said.

If you have an interest in joining the band or have any questions, reach out to pipe major Andrew Mansfield at 613-318-9037 or Brian Sachs at 705-457-3640.

"I'm excited to see what else the band can do together with more members," said Stonehouse.

County Life

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Cupid's Carnival returns

EMILY STONEHOUSE
County Life Staff

Love is in the air this February at Abbey Gardens, as they prepare for their annual Cupid's Carnival on Feb. 11. "This is a great opportunity to celebrate Valentine's Day with all the things you love about winter in Haliburton County," said Ashley McAllister, director of operations at Abbey Gardens.

The one-day event is shaping up to be jam-packed, with something for everyone who attends. "The goal is to create a winter carnival that is fun, interactive, and gets people outside," said McAllister.

The Abbey Gardens skating rink will be opened to visitors, but no rental skates or helmets are available for rental, so attendees are encouraged to come prepared. There will also be tobogganing, games such as archery, darts, and Zorb ball races, plus a pop-up shop from Algonquin Outfitters, featuring snowshoes, hiking gear, and small sleds.

A couple shares a smooch at last year's Cupid's Carnival at Abbey Gardens. This year, the popular event is scheduled for Feb. 11 from 12 to 3 p.m. /Photo submitted

If you're the type of person who hits up carnivals for the food (debatably the best part of any carnival) then Abbey Gardens is preparing a Love Potion Bar, with Valentine's Day cocktails and cinnamon heart white hot chocolate. There will also be cotton candy, cupcakes, waffles, popcorn, and pulled pork available that can be enjoyed around a hot bonfire onsite.

McAllister noted that the Cupid's Carnival held last year was a surprising hit, with over 500 attendees. "We weren't sure what to expect with it being our first year," she said, "but what we realized is that it was a time of year where people were really looking for things to do in the community. Ways to get out of the house, so we are so excited to be offering it again." McAllister said that she is grateful to be partnering with other great community businesses, and is very excited to welcome everyone to the grounds once again.

"Admission is by donation, but we would love it if people could register in advance online, because we want to make sure we have enough prizes and food and drinks for everyone," said McAllister. While admission is by donation, she noted that all proceeds from the event goes towards children's programming at Abbey Gardens.

Cupid's Carnival will run on Feb. 11 from 12 to 3 p.m. at Abbey Gardens. For more information and to register, visit www.abbeygardens.ca/cupidscarnival.

INTERSECTION at Rails End Gallery

Close to 60 Artists are all set to show their work at Rails End Gallery and Arts Centre February 4 until April 1. This annual exhibition consistently surprises and delights audiences with its great variety and 2023 will be no exception. For this year's theme Rails End Curator, Laurie Jones, chose "intersection"; a word that proved to be creatively challenging for many artists. So, in late 2022 the Gallery held two half day "Tea and Talk" sessions, facilitated by Fay Wilkinson and Arlene Stiles, generating many meaningful conversations. *INTERSECTION* opens Saturday, Feb. 4 with a reception from 1 until 3 p.m. and all visitors may cast a vote for their favourite to help decide The 2023 people's choice winner. A virtual show will also be at www.railsendgallery.com for home and away viewing.

Submitted by Rails End Gallery

David Douglas, Wintering Monarch, watercolour with mixed media, 24 x 24 inches. /Submitted

Community Events

Send your event listing to classifieds@haliburtonpress.com

Free public skate
When: Saturday, Feb. 18 3 to 5 p.m.
Where: AJ LA Rue Arena
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CFUW (Canadian Federation Of University Women)
Monthly meetings are where we enjoy listening to informative speakers on a wide range of topics and included in your membership is the enjoyment of getting together, sharing skills and laughter in one of our many interest groups. For more information please go to www.cfuwhh.ca, or call Gail Gotter 705-448-2285 for more info. Hope to see you soon!

Haliburton Highlands Writer's and Editor's Network
When: HHWEN regular meeting the third Thursday of every month. 1 to 3 p.m.
Where: Minden Library, Rotary Room, 176 Bobcaygeon Rd., Minden.
Gather and meet members, read stories, general news. Contact Kay Millard, Secretary HHWEN, 705-286-6635

TOPS: Take Off Pounds Sensibly
When: Monday mornings 9:30 to 11 a.m.
Where: Haliburton Legion Branch 129, upper level
Admission: Yearly membership of $59
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Writing on the Senior Side

What will you be when you grow up again?

GAIL STELTER
Special to *County Life*

"Mom and Dad are old, so Grandma and Grandpa are super old."

Well, how about that, we are super old. Is that like being superman or a superhero? I like the superhero idea. So, that means that we are now the superheroes of our age. I guess that makes us well into senior-senior status. Are you a junior-senior, senior senior or are you just "close?"

Oh, maybe you are still middle-aged or a millennial. I really do not have an idea about all these age categories, but I do know I am one of those baby boomers, and right now, I am feeling pretty proud to be a superhero!

This, of course, includes you, my age peers. Our generation's impact will be a unique and overflowing chapter in some future history book if it is not already. I do hope they call us superheroes/heroines. Does being a superhero include new responsibilities? It seems to beg the question, "What will we do with this new superhero status? How will we impact life right now right here in Haliburton County?"

Sometimes, when I am barely awake in the morning, definitely before coffee, I ponder what I must do for the upcoming day. Is there a committee meeting, an errand or project for a service club, an appointment or a planned outing? It's all good, and I am glad to be busy. However, I am also blissfully delighted when I don't have any pressing commitments, and I say, "Oh a free day! How neat is that?"

I suppose that if I weren't so busy, I would not value my free days as much. Perhaps you have also lamented that you never expected to be so busy in your retirement years. You see, old superheroes just never stop. We never stop giving back to the world and to our community. Perhaps this can be traced to our 1960s idealism. We (that would be the global we), protested; we told the world to "make love, not war," and, we asked for a non-violent peaceful existence for all humankind. Lofty aspirations and well worth the effort even if not so attainable. We were the products of soldiers and strong women.

We were taught to right wrongs and help others. We became "life-long learners." Is it any surprise that now in our senior years, we are superheroes of age who can't be idle for too long? We volunteer, and the number of organizations that need our help is limitless.

This all brings me to the question I have been asking my whole life, my perennial question: what do I want to be when I grow up? Perhaps better posed as; what do I want to be when I grow up again? A famous philosopher said, "The unexamined life is not worth living." (Philosophy 101: Plato or Socrates. I never remember which one). It starts out at a very young age. We decide over and over again what we want to do or be when we grow up again. Ask your grandchildren, if you have not already done so, and when you do, I hope you will be better than me and write down the answers. Here are just a few I remember.

A young daughter, as she sings with her sweet voice, "I want to be a mommy and a singer."

A young son, as he stretches his neck to look out the car window at a nearby construction site, "I want to be a dozer man." (That would be a bulldozer driver).

Another son as he accompanies the priest's words at mass, "I want to be a Bluejay and a priest." (Yes, that's the Toronto Bluejays).

Another daughter, as she makes up worksheets and tests for her bedroom class of stuffed toys, "I want to be a teacher."

A grandchild: "I want to be a football player but not drafted by the Cleveland Browns because they lost every game."

A grandchild: "I want to be Spiderman."

It goes on throughout the years, and we all do it. I know I am not the only one who sees myself as someone who is always seeking new and interesting pursuits. Accordingly, it is no surprise to realize that I am now switching gears. I am hitting the gas pedal and lurching forward into the life of an old superhero.

Recently, someone said to me, "Gail, you would be a good person to join our board of directors." He was speaking of a worthy non-profit organization, and I believe I could help, even make a difference, but I responded with, "thanks," and said that I just can't take on anything new.

I have finally decided the next thing I want to be when I grow up, when I switch gears, and now that I am a grown-up old superhero, I want to be a writer. I am trying, with limited success, to cut back on some of my volunteer activities. I am trying to find time to write my stories; lots of stories and when, if I ever get them done, I want to write a novel. The plot and the characters are already in my head. I think I will need to live a long time to do all this.

The desire to be a writer started a long time ago. I retired young, which means not even a junior-senior, and my retirement plans were to write my stories. I like to write, and having such a life record is very important to me. Why? I was sad and frustrated that I knew so little about my grandparents, especially my Dad's parents. I will always remember him saying, "You would have loved my mother."

His parents died very young, and we never knew them. It is just so hard to realize that they never met even one of their 35 Kennedy grandchildren. Suddenly, when I was 26 years old, my Dad died, and I hadn't asked him about their story. I hadn't even asked very much about his. So, just in case someone down the line wants to know my story, it will be in print.

I retired about sixteen years ago. I didn't write my family book. I did enjoy lots of amazing life experiences, but I didn't write my stories, and I came to believe I was too old to start now. Then, last summer, I was inspired by several talented local authors. I decided I still could be an old superhero who writes stories.

What will I write about? It was yet another grandson who came to the rescue as only grandchildren can do and said, "Just write the billion stories you tell us!" So simple. So profound. I will just write those billion stories, and I will write about living my senior life. I will write stories that connect with other seniors and in doing so I will, hopefully, both entertain and inspire. Writing for fun is pretty easy. There is, however, one serious concern: writing great stories is not a given. I need to learn more about this craft. I need to get better. Oh no, I will need to take a course. Oh no, I will need to go back to school. How did this happen?

How about you? If you are now an old superhero, what will you be the next time you grow up? if you are thinking you are too old to grow up again, you are thinking incorrectly. According to current research, the ability to learn new things doesn't diminish with age. Hurray! Very happy to read that! It seems that our brain never stops growing as long as we continue to use it.

Go for it! Switch gears and grow up again. Could you learn to build a shelf, paint, garden, use new technology, tai chi, research a topic of interest, or subscribe to a podcast? What will you do the next time you grow up again?

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A refresh in the theatrical world

EMILY STONEHOUSE
County Life Staff

Make way for young adults in the community - they're about to take centre stage. Ctrl-ART-Del is a new theatre company that's sprung up in the Haliburton Highlands, with individuals between the ages of 18 to 40 at the forefront.

The company was spearheaded by Tim Nicholson and Amy Leis; two people who are no strangers to the stage themselves, but saw a gap in community theatre, not only in the highlands, but everywhere. "There is nothing specifically geared towards young people in theatre arts," said Nicholson, "and that's a niche that needs to be filled."

Nicholson recalled that he first developed the concept last summer, when he retired from his career in cabinet making. He said as he hung up his woodworking tools for the last time, he realized he had no one to pass the thirty years of knowledge on to. The thought of this lifetime of skills being lost made him stop to think. "That chapter closed," he said, "but theatre, theatre I realized I could still take the time to pass on."

Nicholson got his start on the stage during the early days of the Highlands Summer Festival (HSF), before he was hired as a guest artist at Canadore College. From there, he performed professionally across various parts of North Bay and Toronto, before growing "tired of living out of a suitcase" and returned to live and work in the Haliburton Highlands, with continued roles in HSF.

Leis had acted in the region for 10 years with HSF, during which time she was attending George Brown College to receive professional theatre training. She settled in Minden permanently during the pandemic. "I went to school in Toronto because I sort of had to, there's no way to study theatre in a smaller town," she said, "but this is my community here, and I want to build something here so we can stay where we love."

The concept for Ctrl-ART-Del is a refresh or restart for something new. Nicholson and Leis believe that this new company will offer an outlet for young professionals to take the reins for theatre in the area. They hope to invite young people of all skill-sets, levels, and interests to partake, with Nicholson and Leis providing participants with their own knowledge and experiences to assist in their theatrical journey and development.

The first show that they are presenting is titled Cherubs, which is excitedly making its Canadian debut on Haliburton soil. The play is described as a "black comedy," which Nichsolson and Leis believe will attract younger audience members. "It's very Tarantino meets Beetlejuice, very dark, very funny," said Leis. The play has four young adults as the main actors, with Nicholson as the director.

While Nicholson has stepped into the directorial role for this performance, he said he will measure success by how soon he can walk away. "I want to be able to pass the information I have onto this group, and then I want them to run with it," he said. His vision is to have Ctrl-ART-Del continue to grow with young, eager actors, so that there is a place where they can feel supported, seen, and welcomed in the community.

"We have received great feedback on launching the company so far," said Leis. She believes that this is something that has been missing from the community for a long time, and the development of this opportunity for young professionals will be pivotal in attracting folks to the region.

Cherubs will be in the Northern Lights Performing Arts Pavilion on March 31 at 7:30 p.m., and April 1 at 2 p.m. For more information about Ctrl-ART-Del, visit www.ctrlartdel.ca or visit their socials.

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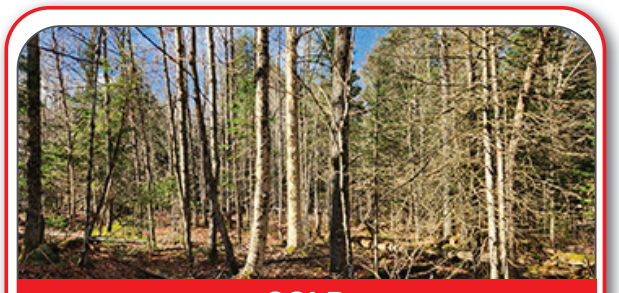

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Send your letters to the editor to vivian@haliburtonpress.com. Letters must be signed and include a phone number.

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CMCA AUDITED

Why do moose shed their antlers?

CLEM GROB
Special to *County Life*

To answer this question, let's start at the beginning - late winter, when the bull moose has no antlers on its head. As the days start getting longer and temperatures begin to rise in the early spring, an increase in testosterone causes the bull moose to begin to grow back their antlers rapidly. Antlers are the fastest growing tissue of any mammal, with healthy individuals accumulating up to a pound of bone mass each day. The antlers grow under a layer called velvet, which remains on the growing antlers throughout the summer. Velvet is comparable to the skin and fur on the rest of the animal, containing blood vessels and nerves that support the growth of the antlers.

During this time of growth, the moose has to be mindful of his surroundings to keep his good looks up. The growing antlers are fragile and susceptible to damage, and any deformities will remain for the whole season. This leaves some bulls out of luck when mating season arrives. However, in the new year, the moose will have a new shot at winning the ladies, thanks to their antler shedding.

Bull moose with the most nutrient dense, diverse diets tend to have the largest antlers. For example, in the coastal regions of British Columbia, moose have a bountiful variety of forage and tend to have larger antlers than moose in the Yukon, where fewer foods are available. Antler growth peaks around the age of 10, after which the antlers become slightly smaller overtime due to aging.

In September, dropping temperatures and fewer daylight hours causes testosterone to surge in the bull moose. This causes them to cut off blood circulation to their velvet, which starts the shedding process. The velvet becomes dry and falls off, and the moose aids in removing the velvet by rubbing their antlers on trees and bushes.

With the antler bones now exposed, the exterior hardens in preparation for the mating season, where bull moose will fight each other for cows. To lure females, bulls may dig a pit in the ground to urinate in and coat their antlers in the urine to emit a strong scent to females.

Apparently, this grand gesture stimulates ovulation in the cows. The females typically choose the bull who wins the most fights, which ensures their offspring have strong genes. Ultimately, the moose with the biggest set of antlers will win the most fights and have the best mating opportunities.

When mating season has finished, the females separate from the bulls, and the large, 60 pound ornament on top of their head is suddenly useless - burdensome even. This is when osteoclasts begin to break down the bone connecting the antler to the skull, and the antlers fall off at some point throughout the winter. This adaptation allows the animal to save some of its much needed energy throughout the winter, when food is scarce and energy stores run at an all time low.

Top 10 things to avoid saying on your anniversary

A friend of mine called yesterday to say he and his wife were celebrating their 38th wedding anniversary. Naturally, I congratulated him. Then I asked what he and his wonderful wife would talk about on their special day?

STEVE GALEA
Humour Columnist

He didn't really know, but he said they always seem to find something to discuss. I suppose that is the secret of such a long-lasting relationship. But it also occurred to me that the flip side is also knowing what not to verbalize. With that in mind, here are the top 10 things not to say on your anniversary. I hope it helps on your special day.

1. I truly thought this year was the paper mâché anniversary.
2. And your name is?
3. Oh, I thought we were here for "Wing night."
4. I thought I'd surprise you by wearing the same short-shorts and muscle shirt I wore on our first date….
5. Well pardon me! I thought a drive-through would be romantic.
6. I disagree. Now is a great time to talk about health insurance.
7. I've ordered us a bottle of their finest Pepto-Bismol.
8. I did it!
9. So, you are absolutely certain it's today?
10. You really want to spend this day together again?

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Like cirrus feathers wafting by
Inside a languid afternoon
On azure strong as August swoon
As if cicadas scratched a song
And sunset takes so very long
One feels the dusk will never come
But here, the solid water's numb
Stopped-still in motion weeks ago
Just overnight, its surface flow
Shock-shivered into shiny ice
A January paradise
Without the loons, since fish below
Get slower, and much deeper go
Yet still above this freeze asleep
Odd daytime colours warmly sweep
In brightest Caribbean hues
Which sing, not northern chilly blues
But oxymoron tropic light
In contrast to the blinding sight
Of rigid lake beneath brave lens
That all this shifts when winter ends

Deborah J. Reed

EAT Cheeserie and Cocktails offers a warm, welcoming space to enjoy tasteful cocktails. /VIVIAN COLLINGS Staff

Fire and Ice, food and drink fundraiser returns

VIVIAN COLLINGS
County Life Staff

Supporting the Minden community this winter can be as enjoyable as sipping on tasteful cocktails and eating fine foods.

Head over to the Minden Hills Cultural Centre on Sunday, Feb. 19 to support their community programming by attending Fire and Ice, a yearly event put on by the Cultural Centre's foundation.

The fundraiser event will feature a series of cocktails and mocktails from EAT Cheeserie and Cocktails and locally-made beer from Boshkung Brewing.

"It's great to be able to get together for this community fundraiser once again. It is always a memorable night in Minden, and a great opportunity to experience the culinary culture of our region," said Minden Hills Cultural Centre Foundation board member Emily Stonehouse.

In the past, Fire and Ice had primarily been a scotch-tasting event, so the MHCCF is excited to bring more drinks to the mix.

There will also be fine foods from Minden-based restaurants for attendees to enjoy and sample throughout the night.

Fire and Ice will take place at the Minden Hills Cultural Centre from 7 to 10 p.m. on Feb. 19 and is a 19+ event.

Tickets are available at local businesses in Minden for $40 which includes one non-alcoholic drink and food. Additional drink tickets will be available at the event.

For a full list of where to find Fire and Ice tickets, visit www.mhccf.ca.

Allana Ziojen, cocktail bartender at EAT in Minden, holds up an old fashioned.

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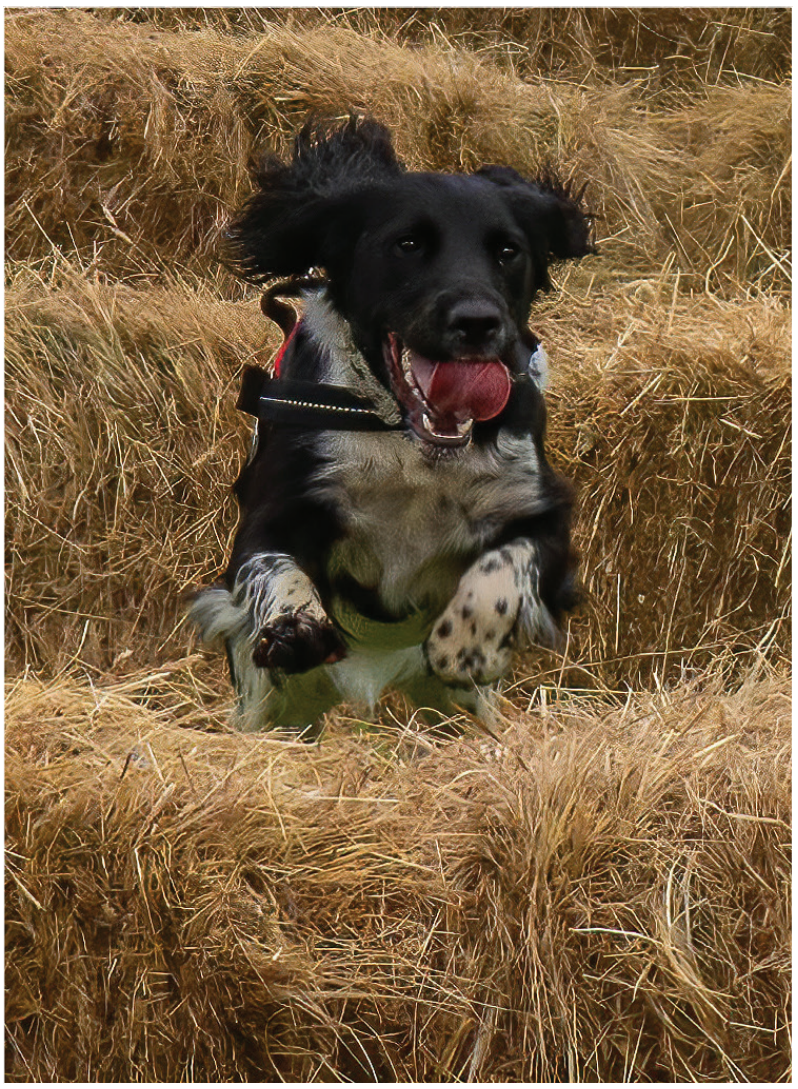

Camera club captures

Coming for my Cookie by Gordon Sheehan won first place in the pictorial category of the Haliburton Highlands Camera Club competition. In the pictorial category, members can submit any topic.

The Haliburton Highlands Camera Club has recently announced new topics for our upcoming competitions. This year, we have a wide variety of topics that we hope will challenge our members regardless of their experience level or type of camera. We are looking forward to all the creative and beautiful submissions. For details about our competitions, visit highlandscameraclub.ca or follow on Facebook. We would like to invite photography enthusiasts to join us for our monthly meetings which are currently held in a hybrid format. /Submitted by the Haliburton Highlands Camera Club

Secluded Cottage by Wendy Evenden won first place in the pictorial category.

Hall's Harbour Sunset by Wendy Evenden won first place in the pictorial category.

Going for gold

Minden Skating Club skaters' hard work paid off at the Huntsville Skokie Skate competition on Jan. 21. From left, Evelyn Vanderstarre, Keetyn Mills, Annika Gervais, Kinsley Murdoch, and Freja Neimann show gold, silver, and bronze ribbons received in elements, dance, and solo performances. Missing from the photo are Ava Allaire, Paislee Cylbuski, Olivia Fitzell, and Alana Smith. /VIVIAN COLLINGS Staff

Ruthie Parker, left, and Annika Gervais practice a dance during the Minden Skating Club's practice at the SG. Nesbitt Arena in Minden on Friday, Jan. 27.

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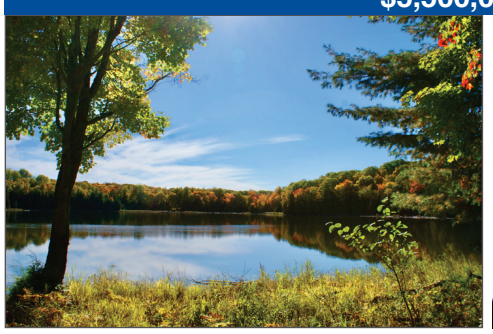

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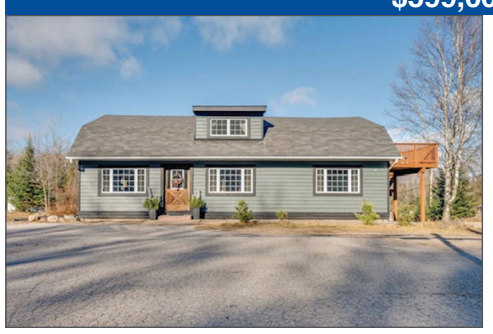

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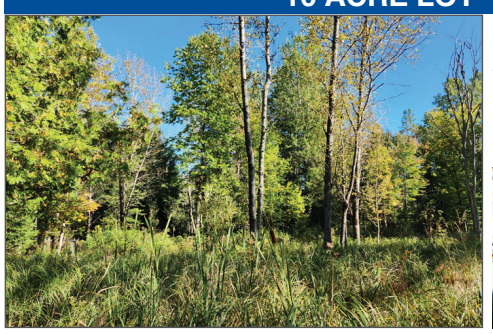

Close to Horseshoe Lake Public Beach, Boat launch and the Minden Wild Water Reserve. Ten minutes from the town of Minden. A great potential building site at the east side of the property, overlooking the marsh. Hydro is at the lot line.

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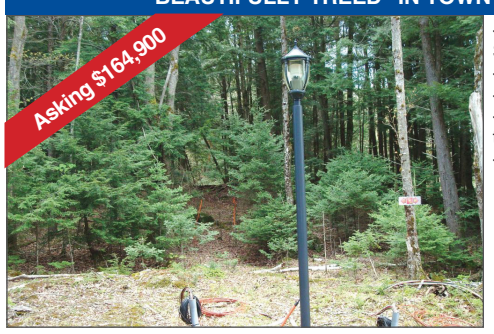

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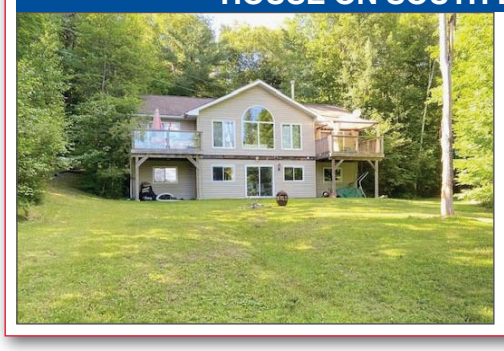

- 4 Season home or cottage minutes to Minden
- Level lot just under 1 acre
- 100 feet of water frontage
- 3 bedrooms & 1 bath on main floor
- Unfinished basement with walkout to lake

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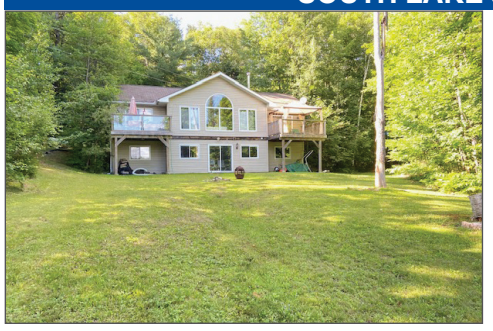
SOUTH LAKE $859,000



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Nature in your backyard

County Life welcomes photo submissions depicting life in the Highlands. Email vivian@ haliburtonpress.com. Please ensure images are high resolution - 200 dpi, 10 inches at its longest edge.

A raven searches for food in the snow. /Submitted by Tammy Nash

A dean stands out in the snow. /Submitted by Tammy Nash

Shadows reflect on untouched snow. / Submitted by Tammy Nash

HALIBURTON COUNTY HUSKIES

Home Games
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Saturday, Feb. 4 @ 4:00 p.m.
vs Caledon Admirals

Tuesday, Feb. 7 @ 7:30 p.m.
vs Markham Royals

Saturday, Feb. 11 @ 4:00 p.m.
vs Stouffville Spirit

For more information please visit our website

Legion Events

Branch 129 Haliburton

Mondays: Bridge every Monday at 1 p.m. Schofield Room.
Tuesdays: League darts starting at 7 p.m. Haliburton Army Cadets practice 6:30 to 9 p.m. (Sept to June)
Wednesdays:
Bid Euchre 1 p.m. start – Main Hall.
Bingo doors open at 6 p.m.
Bingo starts at 7 p.m. $500 Jackpot
Thursdays: General Meeting third Thursday of the month, starting at 7 p.m. All members urged to attend.
Ladies Auxiliary last Thursday of the month at 1 p.m.
Fridays: Meat draw has five draws, five prizes each draw, first draw at 4:30 p.m., last draw at 6:30 p.m. Tickets are $2 per draw. Ed Pickard, MC.
Friday fun darts from 4:30 p.m. and onwards.
Saturdays: 50/50 Draw 4 p.m. draw – tickets are $1 each available in the Clubroom.
Whether you're planning a function for 10 or 200, for more information call the Legion today at 705-457-2571, email rcll129@outlook.com or visit haliburtonlegion.com. Come on out and support Haliburton Legion Branch 129 ... everyone is welcome!
Club room hours: Mon. 3 to 6 p.m., Tues. 3 to 9 p.m., Wed/Thurs. 3 to 6 p.m. Fri. 3 to 7 p.m. and Sat. 3 to 6 p.m.

Branch 636 Minden

Lunch - Monday to Friday
Monday: Rug Hookers every second week. Bid Euchre 1 to 3 p.m.
Tuesday: Food 5 p.m. Canoe FM Bingo 6 p.m.
Thursday: Cribbage 1 to 3 p.m., Darts 7 to 9 p.m. and Euchre 7 to 9 p.m.
Every other Friday: Karaoke 8 to 11 p.m.
Friday Fish & Chips & Wings. Lunch 11a.m. to 2 p.m. and Dinner 4 to 7 p.m.
Every other Friday Karaoke 8 to 11 p.m.
Saturday All Day Breakfast 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. with three Meat draws at 11 a.m.
Call ahead any day for take-out: 705-286-4541
Schedules are subject to change without notice. Check our Facebook page Minden Legion Branch 636 for more info.

Wilberforce

Feb. 2: 1 to 6 p.m.
Feb. 3: 2 to 9 p.m. Pool 2 p.m. Fish & chips, chicken fingers & fries 5 to 8 p.m.
Feb. 4: 2 to 6 p.m. Meat draw 3 p.m.
Feb. 5 to 7: Closed, Executive meeting 7pm
Feb 8: 2 to 6 p.m. Darts 2 p.m. Everyone welcome!

If you are planning a function for social or other event providing our guidelines/ conditions are met, please feel free to contact us at 705-448-2221.

Friday dinners are in jeopardy due to lack of volunteers. Janice S. needs to step back so if interested please reach out ASAP to help. Young people come out and show the elders how it's done!

A frosty Highland landscape. /Submitted by Michael Raiyas

A fisher watches birds up a tree. /Submitted by Tammy Nash

A squirrel munches on a snack. /Submitted by Jill Moulton

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The Municipality of Dysart et al is seeking an energetic individual to join our finance team in the role of Finance Assistant – Maternity Leave Replacement. A detailed job description is available at https://www.dysartetal.ca/en/municipal-government/careers.aspx for your review.

Interested applicants may submit their resume and cover letter to Laura Casey at lcasey@dysartetal.ca, and indicate Finance Assistant – Maternity Leave as the subject. Applications must be submitted via email and may be accepted until 4:30 pm on Friday February 10, 2023.

We thank all of those who apply, but only those selected for an interview will be contacted. Accommodations for applicants with disabilities will be provided upon request. The Municipality of Dysart et al is an equal opportunity employer. Personal information is collected in accordance with the Municipal Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act and will be used only for employment purposes.

HALIBURTON HIGHLANDS HEALTH SERVICES
Leaders in Innovative Rural Health Care

SENIOR FINANCIAL ANALYST

DEPARTMENT:	Finance
REPORTS TO:	Manager, Finance
STATUS:	Permanent Full-time
SHIFT:	Days
COMPENSATION:	Commensurate with Experience
UNION:	Non-Union
AVAILABLE TO:	**Internal & External Candidates**
DATE POSTED:	January 24, 2023

As innovative leaders in rural health care delivery, Haliburton Highlands Health Services (HHHS) offers the spectrum of services with the goal of achieving improved local access to health services and quality of care for patients, residents and clients. HHHS promotes wellness and provides high quality health services including Primary Care, Hospital Care (Acute In-patient and Emergency Care), Long-term Care, End-of-Life Care, Mental Health and Addictions Care, and an array of Community Support Services on two sites. New investments in community programs, including a Geriatric Assessment and Intervention Network (GAIN) Team, a Palliative Care Community Team, Assisted Living Services for High-Risk Seniors and a Community Physiotherapy Clinic are all focused on supporting the residents of the Haliburton Highlands to stay healthy in their homes for as long as possible.

POSITION DESCRIPTION:
Haliburton Highlands Health Services (HHHS) has an exciting opportunity for a highly motivated, self-starting individual with strong accounting and organizational skills to join the team as our Senior Financial Analyst. Reporting to the Manager, Finance, the Senior Financial Analyst will have responsibility for providing services in relation to accounting, business analysis and management decision support for the overall organization. This includes: general accounting; monthly and quarterly management reporting; meaningful results analysis; government reporting; and annual audits for the organization. They will also play a role in business analysis and management decision support by: creating and maintaining detailed budget models; designing and providing valuable management reports and metrics; working with managers to provide thorough analyses of results against budget and forecast.

POSITION RESPONSIBILITIES:
• Prepares monthly journal entries and analyses • Prepares consolidated financial statements for various stakeholders • Prepares quarterly variance reports for stakeholders to facilitate decision making • Responsible for maintenance of chart of accounts and compliance with financial reporting guidelines • Involved in budgeting process and support to management • Provide sound and timely financial and business information to the Finance Manager, CFO, executive leadership team, and clinical programs • Performs detailed reconciliations • Monitor, analyze and reconcile variances from approved plan, consolidating remedial action plans to attain budgeted targets and mitigate run rates • Assist in the preparation of cash flow, working capital and total margin projections and analysis • Assists in year-end audit • Assists as required in ad-hoc/specialized assignments including change management • Prepare and evaluate key statistical and financial performance indicators

QUALIFICATIONS:
To achieve this, the successful candidate must possess:

- Post-secondary degree in a relevant field (e.g. Accounting/Business Administration and/or relevant field)
- Professional Accounting Designation is preferred
- Previous experience in preparing budgets, analyzing financial and related statistical data to identify trends, relationships, and opportunities
- Ontario Health Reporting Standards (OHRS) knowledge and exposure to DADS and NACRS is an asset
- Strong aptitude for analysis, interpretation, and presentation of financial and statistical data
- Ability to take initiative, communicate and embrace challenges
- Sound professional judgment, initiative, and the ability to multi-task and meet tight deadlines
- Experience or knowledge of in-house payroll
- Advanced computer and information systems skills including Excel, Word
- Excellent organization, communication, and interpersonal skills

SUBMIT RESUME TO:	**Human Resources** **Haliburton Highlands Health Services** **Box 115, Haliburton, ON, K0M 1S0** **E-mail: hr@hhhs.ca** **Fax: 705-457-4609**
PLEASE QUOTE JOB NUMBER:	**2023-10**
DEADLINE TO APPLY:	**February 15, 2023 @ 1600 Hours**

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INSIDE THIS WEEK:

PLAYING WITH RETIREMENT
With time on his hands Michael Fay writes a play about war set in the Highlands

IN THE PLAYOFFS
Red Hawk and Storm teams rise through the ranks as playoffs begin

LET'S GET MUSHY
... and we're not talking dogsledding. Our readers share Valentine wishes

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New Year's Baby Arrives!

DARREN LUM/Echo

Haliburton Hospital's New Year's Baby always takes a bit of time to arrive and little Dylan Keefer was no exception. Despite the best efforts of his mother,Monica Miles, Dylan waited until February 5 to be introduced to the world by his new family, including his brother Ethan and his father Tim Keefer. His story is on page 4.

GST rebate fills local gov't coffers

SHERYL LOUCKS
Staff Reporter

Seven per cent does not sound like much but the federal government's move to appease municipalities by refunding 100 per cent of GST will put more than $400,000 back into local government coffers.

In Prime Minister Paul Martin's speech from the throne, Martin offered municipalities and cities a "new deal."

In the past, municipalities were able to claim 57.4 per cent of the General Sales Tax paid on anything purchased. The program is an administrative nightmare, say local clerks and financial officers who have to cobble together hundreds of receipts and to calculate the percentage of rebate they are eligible for. It would be far simpler and less time-consuming to simply exempt municipalities from paying GST, they say.

The federal government now agrees with them.

Local MP John O'Reilly says Martin's speech set out goals and payments that will "strengthen our social foundations, build a truly 21st Century economy and ensure that Canada's voice in the world is one of pride and influence."

Martin's new deal, says

See **Dysart** *page 6*

Local guitarist off to L.A. with Fefe Dobson

IZABELA JAROSZYNSKI
Staff Reporter

Local musician Ryan Chalmers is going to have the best Valentine's Day of his life. Instead of spending it with just one special person, Chalmers will be sharing the day with almost 60,000 screaming fans.

As the new guitarist for Fefe Dobson's band, the Haliburton native will be performing live during the NBA All-star game in Los Angeles this weekend.

This is the first major gig for the 19-year-old who, over the years, has organized local concerts in the Haliburton and Minden arenas as well as the Canarvon bowling alley.

"They used to have a couple of hundred kids in attendance," his mom Julie says of the concerts. "He would arrange to have other bands from the area come and play as well."

Chalmers took up playing guitar at the age of five and always showed a huge degree of musical talent, she said, adding that he is "full of music."

Ryan Chalmers competed against 400 other guitarists to join Dobson's band.

And now that he is playing his first major performance, his mom is both "scared and excited."

Chalmers' big break came thanks to another local success story, talent agent April Hopps, who once lived in Minden with her parents, John and Trish Aggett.

"I got a call from Dobson's agent. They were trying to find a new guitarist. Ryan's name just popped into my head," she said. "To have our first major booking come out of the Haliburton area excites me. That's why I went into this business, to help good, talented people like Ryan succeed."

Hopps left Minden in 2001 to pursue her dream of running a talent agency. Along with partner Nick Shahrabadi, she now runs Diverse Management Group, a talent agency that "represents artists of all shapes and sizes".

She hopes that Chalmers' story will give hope to local musicians. "There is a lot of musical talent coming out of the area," she said. "Just because you come from a small town doesn't mean you won't get noticed. Get out there and show your craft."

The band is scheduled to hit the stage at 1:30 p.m. on February 14. Some three million people are expected to tune in.

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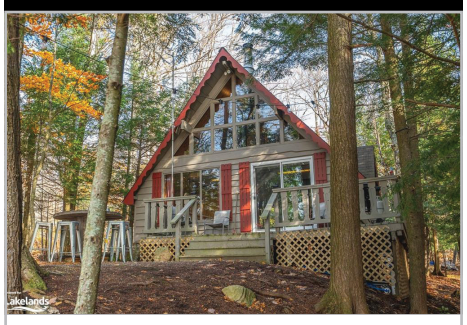

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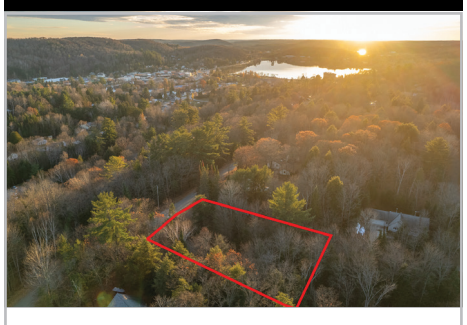

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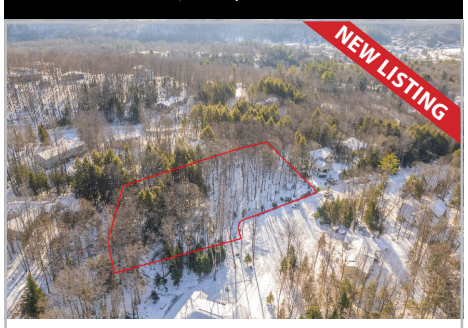

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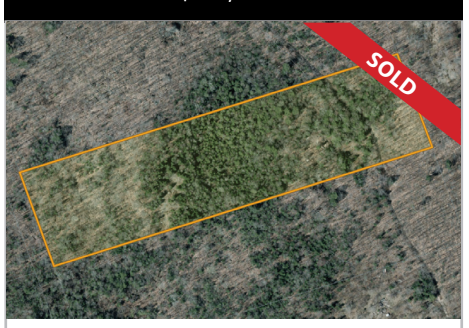

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